CLAIMS

1. An adjustable armrest system for use by an occupant in a vehicle body comprising:

an armrest having a support portion; and

the support portion being pivotally mounted with respect to the vehicle body for rotation between a first position in which the support portion is sufficiently horizontal to present itself for use by the vehicle occupant and a second position in which the support portion is stowed in a sufficiently vertical position as to provide more space for the occupant in the vehicle body.

2. The adjustable armrest system of claim 1 wherein the armrest is power-operated for power adjustment by a vehicle occupant.

3. The adjustable armrest system of claim 1 wherein the armrest system includes a power mechanism for adjusting the support portion, the power mechanism comprising: a motor, and at least one linkage element operatively connecting the motor to the support portion, wherein operation of the motor imparts movement to the support portion via the linkage element such that the support portion is movable between the first and second positions.

4. The adjustable armrest system of claim 3 wherein the armrest is a module and the power mechanism is housed within the module.

5. The adjustable armrest system of claim 3 wherein the motor is irreversible.

6. The adjustable armrest system of claim 2 wherein the support portion is positionable at any angled position along its pivotal path between the first and second positions.

7. The adjustable armrest system of claim 3 wherein the armrest includes a mounting portion and wherein the support portion is pivotally connected to the mounting portion and wherein the mounting portion houses the motor.

8. The adjustable armrest system of claim 3 including a control device on the armrest for controlling the motor to direct the power adjustment of the support portion.

9. The adjustable armrest system of claim 1 wherein the support portion is adjustably connectable to the vehicle body for movement between an upper position and a lower position such that the vertical height of the armrest can be adjusted for the comfort of the vehicle occupant.

10. The adjustable armrest system of claim 1 wherein the support portion is longitudinally adjustably movable with respect to the vehicle body for movement between a forward position and a rearward position such that the longitudinal position of the support portion is adjustable for the comfort of the vehicle occupant.

11. The adjustable armrest system of claim 1 wherein the support portion is adjustably mounted to the vehicle body for movement between an upper position and a lower position such that the vertical height of the armrest is adjustable for the comfort of the vehicle occupant and wherein the support portion is also adjustably mounted to the vehicle body along the longitudinal axis for movement between a forward position and a rearward position such that the longitudinal position of the armrest can also be adjusted for the comfort of the vehicle occupant.

12. The adjustable armrest system of claim 1 wherein the vehicle body has a vehicle seat and wherein the armrest is adjustably connected with respect to the vehicle seat.

13. The adjustable armrest system of claim 1 wherein the armrest includes a mounting portion connected to the support portion and wherein the mounting portion is connectable to the vehicle body and wherein the support portion is connected to the mounting portion.

14. The adjustable armrest system of claim 7 wherein the mounting portion and the support portion generally form an L-shape when the support portion is in the first position and wherein the support portion is generally flush with the mounting portion when the support portion is stowed in the second position.

15. The adjustable armrest system of claim 1 wherein the vehicle body has a vehicle door and wherein the armrest is flushly mounted within the vehicle door when the support portion is stowed in the second position.

16. The adjustable armrest system of claim 1 wherein the vehicle body includes a vehicle door and wherein the vehicle door has a recessed portion and wherein the armrest fits flushly within the recessed portion of the door when the armrest is stowed in the second position.

17. The adjustable armrest system of claim 1 wherein the vehicle body has a vehicle door and wherein the armrest forms a module as part of the vehicle door.

18. The adjustable armrest system of claim 1 wherein the support portion has at least one control device for occupant command to the vehicle.

19. The adjustable armrest system of claim 18 wherein the control device provides occupant input command for at least one vehicle function selected from the group consisting of a window position control, a radio control, a mirror control, a vehicle climate control, a seat adjustment control, and an armrest support portion rotation control.

20. The adjustable armrest system of claim 18 wherein the control device provides occupant input command for adjustment of the armrest support portion position.

21. An adjustable armrest for use in a vehicle body comprising:

an armrest having a support portion;

the support portion adjustably connectable to the vehicle body; and

the support portion having a rotational axis and being pivotally mountable to the vehicle body for rotation about the rotational axis between a first position in which the support portion is generally horizontal and presents itself for use by a vehicle occupant and a second position as to provide more space to the vehicle occupant.

22. An adjustable armrest for use in a vehicle body comprising:

an armrest having a support portion; and

the support portion being adjustably connectable to the vehicle body for movement between an upper position and a lower position such that the vertical height of the armrest can be adjusted for the comfort of the vehicle occupant.

23. An adjustable armrest for use in a vehicle body comprising:

an armrest having a support portion; and

the support portion being adjustably connectable to the vehicle body for movement between a forward position and a rearward position such that the longitudinal position of the armrest can be adjusted for the comfort of the vehicle occupant.

24. A vehicle body having an adjustable armrest system for use in the vehicle body comprising:

an armrest mounted to the vehicle body; and

the armrest having a power mechanism for moving the armrest between a first position and a second position.

25. The adjustable armrest system in the vehicle body of claim 24 further comprising:

the armrest having a support portion;

the support portion being operatively connected to the vehicle body; and

the support portion being pivotally mounted with respect to the vehicle body for rotation between a first portion in which the support portion is generally horizontal and presents itself for use by a vehicle occupant and a second position in which the support portion is stowed in a generally vertical position as to provide more space to the vehicle occupant.

26. The adjustable armrest system in the vehicle body of claim 24 wherein the power mechanism comprises an operable motor and at least one linkage element operatively connecting the motor to the support portion, and wherein operation of the motor imparts movement to the support portion via the linkage element such that the support portion is movable between the first and second positions.

27. The adjustable armrest system in the vehicle body of claim 24 wherein the power mechanism is housed within the armrest.

28. The adjustable armrest system in the vehicle body of claim 24 wherein the power mechanism includes a motor which is irreversible.

29. The adjustable armrest system in the vehicle body of claim 24 wherein the armrest is movable to any location along its path of movement between the first and second positions.

30. The adjustable armrest system in the vehicle of claim 24 wherein the armrest includes a mounting portion and a support portion pivotally connected to the mounting portion and wherein the mounting portion houses the power mechanism.

31. The adjustable armrest system in the vehicle of claim 24 wherein a control device is provided on the armrest for inputting a signal to the power mechanism to direct the powered movement of the armrest.